

DWR Climate News Digest

November 2015

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The information provided in the DWR Climate News Digest is a selected compilation of recent popular news articles, publications, and other information relevant to climate change and water management, and is intended to provide educational and thought-provoking material for water managers and water users.

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TOPICS [Find older items in the [Climate News Archive](#)]

****Special Section: COP21 – 2015 Paris Climate Conference****

COP - What's it all about? - The international political response to climate change began at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, where the 'Rio Convention' included the adoption of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This convention set out a framework for action aimed at stabilising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to avoid "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system." The UNFCCC which entered into force on 21 March 1994, now has a near-universal membership of 195 parties.

The main objective of the annual Conference of Parties (COP) is to review the Convention's implementation. The first COP took place in Berlin in 1995 and significant meetings since then have included COP3 where the Kyoto Protocol was adopted, COP11 where the Montreal Action Plan was produced, COP15 in Copenhagen where an agreement to success Kyoto Protocol was unfortunately not realised and COP17 in Durban where the Green Climate Fund was created.

In 2015 **COP21, also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference**, will, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, aim to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.

France will play a leading international role in hosting this seminal conference, and COP21 will be one of the largest international conferences ever held in the country. The conference is expected to **attract close to 50,000 participants including 25,000 official delegates** from government, intergovernmental organisations, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society.

To visit the official COP21 website for more information, [click here](#).

****Special Section: COP21 – 2015 Paris Climate Conference****

Obama hopes to strengthen U.S. role in Paris talks with pipeline decision

[ClimateWire – November 9, 2015]

A quick and dirty glossary of climate negotiation jargon and abbreviations

[Treehugger – November 11, 2015]

Paris climate deal must be legally binding, EU tells John Kerry

[The Guardian – November 12, 2015]

India launches ‘climate action’ website ahead of Paris meet

[The Economic Times – November 12, 2015]

The good, the bad, the bewildering: 10 countries’ climate pledges

[National Geographic – November 18, 2015] (*“So far, more than 150 countries – from Sudan to Suriname and from Kiribati to Kyrgyzstan – have outlined for United Nations negotiators just how, when, and by how much each would cut carbon dioxide over the next several decades”*)

Paris climate change talks: Political will to tackle global warming is building, says Sir Jonathon Porrit [Independent – November 22, 2015]

India signals climate demands before Paris [Climate Wire – November 23, 2015]

Paris climate summit: Why more women need seats at the table [CNN – November 23, 2015]
(*“Studies show that collective intelligence rises with the number of women in a group. Engaging a critical mass of women is linked to more progressive and positive outcomes and to more sustainability-focused decision-making across sectors”*)

The U.S. can lead the world to a climate agreement [Scientific American – November 24, 2015]

From Rio to Paris, a history of climate change summits [France 24 – November 30, 2015]

The Paris climate talks have begun, and Obama has strong words for fellow leaders

[Think Progress – November 30, 2015] (*“For I believe, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that there is such a thing as being too late. And when it comes to climate change, that hour is almost upon us”*)

COP21 climate change summit: ‘Never have the stakes been so high’

[CNN – November 30, 2015]

Reports

[Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty](#)

[World Bank – November 2015]

[Mapping Choices: Carbon, Climate, and Rising Seas – Our Global Legacy](#)

[Surging Seas/Climate Central – November 2015]

[Let's Talk Climate: Messages to Motivate Americans](#) [EcoAmerica – November 2015]

("Americans on the edge of the climate discussion, those who are part of the base or opposition, are small percentages of the population and well entrenched in their beliefs. Most Americans are somewhere in between. To build public support for climate action, we need to focus on these Americans")

Published Literature

[Predicting future, post-fire erosion and sedimentation for watersheds of the Western USA](#)

[Geological Society of America – November 2015]

Agriculture/Food Production

[Climate change is making it possible to farm the Alaskan tundra](#)

[Fast Company – November 9, 2015]

[USDA official: Climate change threatens Midwest agriculture](#)

[Kansas City Business Journal – November 9, 2015]

[How healthy soils can help in the fight against climate change](#)

[Eco Watch – November 19, 2015]

[Climate change is going to wreak havoc on world agriculture](#) [Big Think – November 23, 2015]

Extreme Weather Events

[Extreme heat defines climate change](#) [Scientific American – November 5, 2015]

[Global warming's fingerprints are all over recent extreme weather, research shows](#)

[Mashable – November 5, 2015]

[The role of global warming in the California drought](#) [Decoded Science – November 8, 2015]

Sea-level Rise and other Ocean Impacts

[3.2 millimeters: A troubling rise in sea level](#) [New York Times – November 30, 2015]

Human Health Impacts

[GAO: Climate change could cause more cardiovascular disease in Northwest, allergies in Great Plains, drownings in Midwest](#) [CNS News – November 6, 2015]

Tribal Impacts & Traditional Ecological Knowledge

[Arctic Council, indigenous peoples, prepare for climate change meeting](#)
[Nunatsiaq Online – November 3, 2015]

[A Washington tribe confronts climate change, sea level rise](#)
[Oregon Public Broadcasting – November 9, 2015]

Wildlife and Ecosystem Impacts

[Climate change-fueled wildfires could double erosion in the West](#)
[Take Part – November 8, 2015]

[Will climate change affect fall colors?](#) [Discovery – November 9, 2015]

[Breeding flexibility helps migratory songbirds adjust to climate warming](#)
[Science Daily – November 13, 2015]

[What climate change looks like: Dissolving shells](#) [New York Times – November 30, 2015]

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

[Cow-calf grazing practices could determine, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions](#)
[Science Daily – November 3, 2015] (*“Combined with its potential to significantly lower GHG emissions, we conclude that multi-paddock cattle grazing serves as the best carbon mitigation option for this region”*)

[U.S. government agencies to slash greenhouse gas emissions 41.8 percent](#)
[Reuters – November 23, 2015]

[New report outlines benefits and trade-offs of low-carbon energy](#)
[EurekaAlert – November 30, 2015]

Climate Adaptation

[A global snapshot of climate change adaptation](#) [PhysOrg – November 10, 2015]

International Planning

[Rapid, climate-informed development needed to keep climate change from pushing more than 100 million people into poverty by 2030](#) [World Bank – November 8, 2015]

[Saudi Arabia says will diversify oil economy to slow climate change](#)
[Reuters – November 10, 2015]

[Does India hold the key to reaching the 2°C target?](#) [ClimateWire – November 12, 2015]

[2 countries reveal how divided the world is on climate change](#)
[National Geographic – November 16, 2015]

[On Kenya's climate frontline, female farmers are building a secure future](#)
[The Guardian – November 16, 2015]

[Green growth: Putting Morocco in the lead against climate change](#)
[World Bank – November 23, 2015] (*"The right to sustainable development does not mean protecting the environment at the expense of the economy. It means being wise enough to find a balance between economic development, social mobility, and the protection of resources – so that there are enough resources to last our children and our grandchildren"*)

[Behind China's evolution from climate deal holdout to leader](#)
[Chicago Tribune – November 30, 2015]

Legislative Updates

[California makes advances in climate adaptation planning](#)
[Ascent Environmental – November 2015]

Communicating Climate Change

[Shocking pictures show what rising sea levels could do to major cities](#)
[Tech Insider – November 10, 2015] (*The difference between a 2°C and 4°C increase in Earth's average global temperature is stunning! – and reaching 2° is a virtual certainty by 2100*)

[New monthly video explores climate, drought, and national security](#)
[Yale Climate Connections – November 10, 2015]

[How psychology can save the world from climate change](#) [NPR – November 30, 2015]

BLOGS/Commentary

Jon Powers on “[Climate change is the ‘mother of all risks’ to national security](#)”

[Time – November 6, 2015] (*“Jon Powers, an Iraq Veteran, served as the Federal Chief Sustainability Officer and Special Advisor on Energy to the US Army in the Obama Administration”*)

Brendan Nyhan on “[The limits of the ‘tobacco strategy’ on climate change](#)”

[New York Times – November 6, 2015]

Stephen Rahmstorf on “[The Earth cannot afford 50 more years of dithering about climate change](#)” [Market Watch – November 9, 2015] (*“In November 1965, President Lyndon B.*

Johnson was presented with the first-ever government report warning of the dangers that could result from burning large amounts of fossil fuels. Fifty years is a long time in politics, so it is remarkable how little has been done since then to address the threat posed by carrying on with business as usual”)

Robert Fares on “[Getting to No: The facts behind Obama’s decision to reject Keystone XL](#)”

[Scientific American – November 12, 2015]

Christiana Figueres on “[Thanks for the memories, fossil fuels, but now it’s time to change](#)”

[Huffington Post – November 14, 2015] (*The Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change expresses her view that “The declining costs of technology and the rising costs of fossil-fuel recovery have helped increase the space for more ambition and create the political moment in which genuine and transformative change is possible.”*)

Hunter Cutting on “[El Niño + Climate Change = Godzilla?](#)”

[Huffington Post – November 17, 2015]

Joe Romm on “[Global temperatures continue to surge in record-breaking October](#)”

[Climate Progress – November 17, 2015]

Jason Box and Naomi Klein on “[Why a climate deal is the best hope for peace](#)”

[The New Yorker – November 18, 2015]

Rick Fedrizzi on “[Capitalism is the solution to climate change](#)” [CNBC – November 30, 2015]

Additional Items of Interest

[America’s Preparedness Report Card](#) [States at Risk – November 2015] (*“States at Risk: America’s Preparedness Report Card is the first ever national analysis of state level preparedness for climate-driven, weather-related threats facing all 50 states”*)

[Exxon Mobil investigated for possible climate change lies by New York attorney general](#)

[New York Times – November 5, 2015]

[Obama rejects pipeline project, cites impact on climate](#)

[EnergyWire– November 6, 2015]

[Wildfire risk to rise by six times, study says](#) [San Diego Tribune – November 8, 2015]

[Climate impacts threaten to expand poverty worldwide](#) [ClimateWire – November 9, 2015]

[Peabody reaches climate change settlement](#) [USA Today – November 9, 2015] (*“The world’s largest publically-traded coal company has agreed to make fuller public disclosures about the risks climate change poses to its business in a settlement of charges that it misled investors and the public.”*)

[Bill Nye wants us to invent our way out of climate change](#)

[Washington Post – November 10, 2015] (*“...the Earth is going to be here no matter what we do. We want to save the Earth for us.”*)

[Pope’s call for action on climate change has shifted US views](#)

[New Scientist – November 10, 2015]

[California 6th grade science books: Climate change a matter of opinion not scientific fact](#)

[Science Daily – November 10, 2015] (*“Contrary to the clear majority of climate scientists who cite scientific data and evidence of human-caused climate change, the textbooks present the topic as uncertain, that humans may or may not cause it, and that is unclear if we need immediate mitigating action”*)

[As CO2 passes 400ppm, what goes up might not come down](#)

[Inside Climate News – November 11, 2015]

[White House gets behind nuclear power to fight climate change](#) [Forbes – November 12, 2015]

[Climate activists push G-20 leaders on climate action](#) [ClimateWire – November 12, 2015]

[Scared by climate change? Maybe you should head north](#) [CNBC – November 13, 2015]

(Ireland and Nordic countries will fare pretty well with climate change, at least in the near term, but African countries that are already vulnerable to extreme poverty will be hardest hit)

[Earth’s climate more sensitive to carbon dioxide than previously thought](#)

[Science Daily – November 16, 2015]

[How scientists know climate change is happening](#) [Huffington Post – November 30, 2015]

[The most important number in climate change](#) [Scientific American – November 30, 2015]

[What passing a key CO₂ mark means to climate scientists](#)

[Climate Central – November 20, 2015] (*"This week is a big one for our world. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels climbed above 400 parts per million at the Mauna Loa Observatory and it's distinctly possible they won't be back below that level again in our lifetimes."*)

[Two-thirds of Americans want U.S. to join climate change pact](#)

[New York Times – November 30, 2015]

[Bill Gates and other billionaires pledge to take on climate change](#) [NPR – November 30, 2015]

Images to Ponder

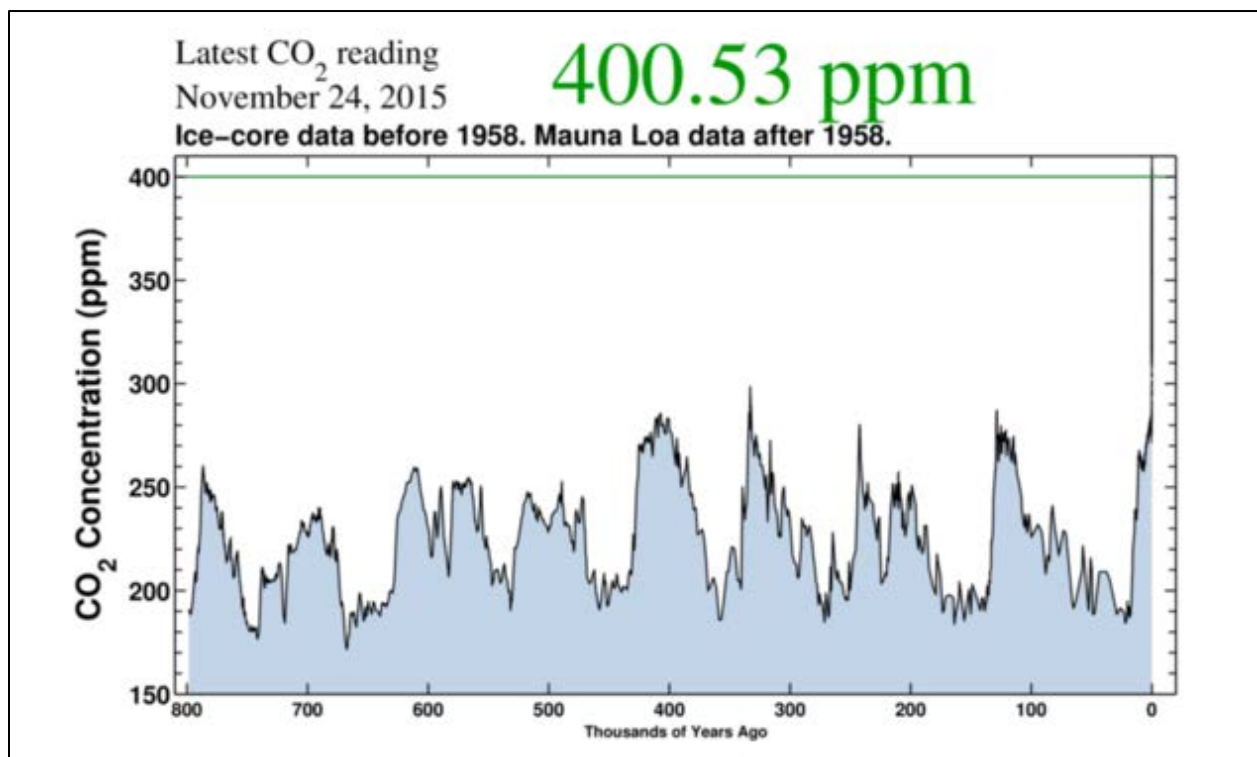


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